

REMARKS

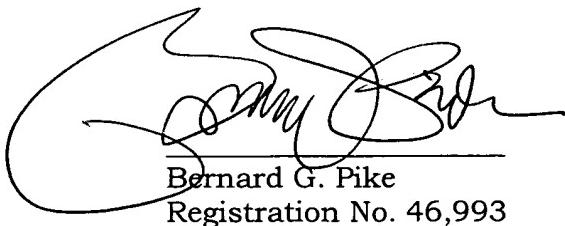
1. Restriction Requirement

In the Office Action, the Examiner has restricted the claims of the subject application into the following two invention groups:

- I. The process defined by independent claim 1; and
- II. The process defined by independent claim 18.

Applicants herein elect group I, including Claims 1-17 for further examination in the subject application without traverse and without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully indicate that the Examiner did not indicate whether claim 31 was to be examined with Group I or II, or comprised a third invention group. Applicants have made a diligent effort to fully respond to the restriction requirement presented by the Examiner. Examination of the application's elected claims and issuance of a Notice of Allowance at an early date are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any concerns regarding Applicants' present response, he is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below so that those concerns may be expeditiously addressed.

Respectfully submitted,



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